



USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SPECIAL INITIATIVES



Photo by A. Fedortsiv

Olena Roshke, a foster mom with the Parents House Charitable Foundation, Kyiv

THE CHALLENGE

As a post-Soviet country that has witnessed dramatic economic decline until recently, Ukraine faces several unique challenges.

Examples: 1) Almost 30% of Ukraine's population still lives below the poverty line; 2) Limited economic opportunities compel men and women to look for work abroad, which puts them at risk of falling victim to trafficking; 3) an estimated 100,000 children live outside of family care.

OVERVIEW

USAID special initiatives involve areas in which the US government is partnering with Ukraine to confront specific challenges. USAID special initiatives concentrate on: 1) fighting trafficking in persons; 2) addressing issues that involve orphans & vulnerable children; 3) developing professional human capacity and strengthening social institutions through visitor exchange programs, university partnership and grant programs.

OUR PROGRAMS

Counter Trafficking in Persons

In Ukraine, it is estimated that 100,000 persons have been trafficked since 1991, including men, women, and children. The Countering Trafficking in Persons (TIP) initiative is a part of a broader U.S. Government effort to address the crime of trade in human beings. The initiative aims to reduce TIP in Ukraine by increasing awareness of the issue among governmental and community leaders, service providers and the general public; informing and motivating risk groups about ways to protect themselves; assisting victims; and ensuring their reintegration into society.

Orphans & Vulnerable Children

Over 100,000 children in Ukraine live outside of family care. While the majority of these children are in state institutions, including orphanages, boarding schools and shelters, many struggle to survive on the streets. This program aims to promote family care models for vulnerable children, including HIV-affected children, and provides support and services that will help vulnerable children and their families stay together. It is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports to reform the system of children's institutions and resolve adoption issues in Ukraine.

Community Connections

This program supports visitor exchanges to develop hands-on practical internships for business persons, NGO leaders, environmentalists, educators, medical workers and local government officials.

IATP

The Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) provides resources and trains citizens to use tools that facilitate information exchange, building associations and creating change in their communities and societies. IATP began operating in Ukraine in 1998. At present, 11 IATP centers and 13 Independent Internet Centers operate throughout the country, and employ over 40 professionals, trainers, and volunteers to train, assist users access the Web, and organize various Internet-related events. The IATP initiatives in Ukraine include: Tech Age Girls, E-Governance and Sense Online.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

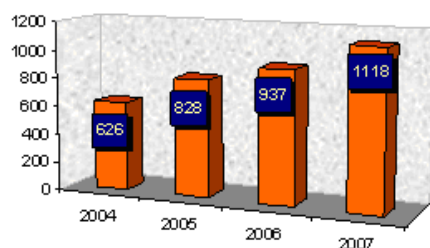
Counter Trafficking in Persons:

- IOM has provided direct assistance, i.e. medical, psychological, legal, educational grants, vocational trainings, etc. to 1,666 victims of trafficking under this project. Out of victims assisted in 2007, 52% were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 45% for labor exploitation, 2% for

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness of Trafficking in Persons (TIP);
- Assist TIP victims and ensure their reintegration;
- Establish effective networks of family-type care;
- Develop a comprehensive system of family support through social, medical and psychosocial patronage of the mothers and families of HIV-affected children;
- Prevent abandonment of infected newborns.

Victims of trafficking assisted by IOM through Ukrainian NGOs (in all regions)



Implementing Partners

Trafficking in Persons:

International Organization for Migration

Orphans & Vulnerable Children, and Mother and Infant Health:

Holt International, JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.

Community Connections:

Project Harmony (World Learning)

Avian Flu: Center for Ukrainian Reform Education, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

Energy Efficiency: International Resource Group

mixed forms, and 1% for forced begging.

- To date, 79 NGO projects were initiated, including projects with universities, faith-based organizations, Peace Corps, and trade unions.
- Educational materials, including a video film “*Destination Point – Life*” have been presented to educators in 25 oblasts; 8,000 copies of the film have been distributed to schools throughout Ukraine.
- 200 volunteers from 20 Oblasts have been trained for volunteer work in countering trafficking under the Peer-to-Peer *Ray of Hope* Project up to date.
- Specialized educational course for counter-trafficking NGO representatives on Social Work designed and launched within the Social Work Department of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.
- A toll-free national counter-trafficking short number “527” launched with mobile operators life:), KyivStar and MTS.

Orphans & Vulnerable Children:

As of October 1, 2007:

- 9,609 decision makers, service providers, parents and children participated in various trainings events; 26 community groups were established;
- 1,573 children and 904 families received psychosocial support services through the FCP grant program;
- Practical guidelines on foster care were developed by the FCP Child Welfare Task Force, reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports;
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, FCP trained 95 regional trainers on foster care who now train prospective foster parents;
- 447 cases of child abandonment were prevented;
- 13 HIV+ children were placed in foster care (first time ever in Ukraine).

Community Connections

During 2006-2007, 200 people from all oblasts of Ukraine representing professional groups - NGO management, journalism, public health, environmental issues, energy, work with minors and vulnerable groups, agriculture, education administration - have participated in the exchange program.

For more information, please contact **USAID/Ukraine Development Outreach & Communications**, tel. (380 44) 537 4600 or visit <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

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